

# Botswana

## Republic of Botswana

**Jerry R. Richardson**, Area Coordinator/Official UPCI Representative

**Theodore D. Grosbach**, Superintendent

**Population:** 1,800,000

**Area:** 224,606 sq. mi.

**Capital:** Gaborone

**Languages:** English (official), Setswana, Kalanga

**Religions:** Christian, 72%; Badimo (traditional African religion), 6%

Approximately twice the size of Arizona, the landlocked Republic of Botswana borders Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. In 1855 Britain established the area, then known as Bechuanaland, as a protectorate. The nation became independent on September 30, 1966. Botswana exports diamonds, cattle, animal products, copper, and nickel.

The first resident UPCI missionaries arrived in 1980. However, for a number of years, the young Botswanan church was without missionary leadership. The UPC of Botswana now has 1,000 constituents, seven licensed ministers, and nine churches and preaching points according to the *2006 Annual Field Report*.

**Recommended Viewing:** *Diamonds in the Dust* (DVD: 0757710905). Order directly from Foreign Missions Division at 314.837.7304, ex. 339, or [fmdorders@upci.org](mailto:fmdorders@upci.org).